

THE GARDEN ISLAND

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E. B. BRIDGEWATER, EDITOR
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In our editorial in last week's issue, relative to the comparison of school principals, we were incorrect in as much as the teacher of the one roomed school is considered an assistant instead of a principal, which fact makes the comparison even more ridiculous, since it shows the lack of distinction between the two positions.

Under these conditions, this same teacher might be transferred to the school under the direction of the principal who is receiving the same salary, thereby ranking the latter in salary, yet having in reality, less responsibility than she has with her one roomed school.

Is it possible even with the widest range of imagination, to see the justice of a schedule which would allow such a condition of affairs? There is also an assistant in one of our leading schools, who receives a salary equal to that of the principal of the four-room school, \$83.33, yet she has never had the position as principal in any school but is a graduate of the Honolulu Normal. Again we ask our readers to draw on their imagination to see if it is possible to detect anything like justice in such an arrangement.

At the last session of the Legislature, it was rumored about that the Board of Education had not acted fairly with its teaching staff. The rumor was followed by a prompt and indignant denial of the existence of such conditions and the report was duly buried.

It is not our intention to renew this charge against the Board, but how it can possibly explain the present schedule without escaping criticism, is difficult to see.

From another assistant teacher, we learn that her salary last year was \$60.00 and that this year it is the same. The question is, why does the new schedule make such wide distinction in the salaries of its assistants? For instance, here we have one assistant whose salary is boosted from \$65.00 to \$83.33, while another, who is also a graduate of the Honolulu Normal, is placed on the same scale as of last year.

The Board, when requested for information on this subject will probably reply by referring us to the "new schedule." In answer to this, we will say that any schedule in which is not recognized the past services of one or all of its faithful teachers, falls short of answering the purpose for which its intended.

The principal of the four roomed school to which reference was made in our last issue, is deserving of more than ordinary consideration from the Board, from the fact that she was induced, as a personal favor toward the late Mr. Atkinson, to accept a position in the Normal School at a time when the Board was sorely in need of a teacher, and as sorely in need of the wherewithal to pay her anything like a decent salary.

She was given a salary of \$42.50 per month and a promise to see that she would in time receive her just dues. This was years ago, and in as much as she has remained with the Department ever since, one would naturally conclude that the "time" for receiving her "just dues" had arrived, and that those directly responsible for her not having done so, are guilty of a breach of courtesy and consideration which is not only due to all trustworthy employees, but a recognized necessity in the success-

ful administration of Departmental affairs.

It should not be necessary to remind the Board of its obligations to its teachers, who are men and women of more than ordinary intelligence. The Board should be ever ready to recognize merit, and reward same, regardless of the so-called "iron-clad" schedule. That "keeping to the schedule" talk which is so freely handled by the officials of the Department, reminds one that in the general outline for the schools, the teacher is supposed to have but thirty-five pupils, while the genial Board calmly sits and permits the teacher to be over-ridden with as many as 58 pupils. Does the same Board which is so particular about following the "new schedule," require the teacher to follow the rule concerning the number of pupils she is to teach? It does not. It's a poor rule that won't work both ways, and a law which allows a teacher to be over-ridden with pupils, might easily be made to conform with conditions under which the teacher labors.

In any business institution of the importance of the Department of Public Instruction, it is always customary to pay a person according to his or her experience, qualifications and the responsibility of the position, and there is no reason why this rule should not apply in this instance.

In regard to the teachers' schedule to which we refer, Section 1, of the Laws of Territory of Hawaii has this to say:

Section 1. "Such schedule shall be based upon a classification of schools, classification of teachers' certificates and length of service, provided, however, that the schedule as to salaries of principals and supervisors, shall be based also upon the number of teachers under their direction."

Placing an assistant teacher on the same salary as a Principal who has three assistants under her direction, is clearly indicative of a direct evasion of the meaning of the law, from which the above is an exact quotation.

The trouble with our small farm experts is that about all the actual knowledge they possess concerning diversified farming, is gained through conversations with soap box ornaments whose chief occupation seems to be to peddle hot air to these gullible, misguided individuals who blow in on us with sickening regularity.

As an indication of the correctness of our statement of their lack of actual knowledge of existing conditions, we have but to refer to the recent information that arrangements had been completed for the marketing of Hawaii's crops.

Arranging for the marketing of crops which are yet but anticipated, is too much like the counting of chickens before the eggs hatch, and further indicates a policy which

has been played on the "small farmer" with such frequency that it is not likely many will be induced to seriously consider the present efforts to make millions out of all those who wish to become small farmers.

It would be much more to the point—certainly more practical—if some of our diversified farm advocates would take the lead as did the late Mr. Blacow in establishing the tobacco industry—get right into it personally and demonstrate to the satisfaction of any and every body, just what can be done. This would redound much more to their credit than remaining in a well appointed office and indulging in the distribution of seeds at cost, and dealing out free advice.

Prof. Starret may be correct in his statement that "small farming will win out on Kauai," but in our opinion, there is nothing quite so disastrous to a small property holder as this eternal experimenting with every Tom-Dick-and-Harry who comes along with a new idea on the small farm proposition. We who have lived here for many years are aware of the existence of pests which are ever lurking in the ground awaiting the coming of the man who is unwise enough to venture into "diversified agriculture." Such men have come—they have as surely gone, wiser but poorer.

Men whom we have every reason to believe were quite as capable as Starret, have tried and failed. Under such circumstances, it is not to be wondered at, if our people hesitate somewhat to recognize what a glorious(?) opportunity they have in getting into the "independent farmer class."

As an example of what might happen to the small farmer in case his crop would become the object of the attention of some destructive pest, we would cite the difficulty in securing funds for a campaign against the fruit fly. The Diversified farmer would in such cases, be compelled to ask aid from the government, all of which would mean time and in many instances an outlay in money far in excess of the profits of his crop.

But, if small farming could be confined to cane planting, there would be no doubt whatever of a crop; the Planters' Association would be ever on the alert to see that the crop was not destroyed; the farmer could borrow on his crop, knowing that when it matured he would have a profit. How much could a small farmer borrow, or how far would his credit go with nothing but a diversified crop as security? It is not likely he could get so far that he would be among strangers, and unless he was convenient to a plantation from which he could secure work, its dollars to doughnuts he'd come out all to the bad.

It is a conceded fact, however, that pines, tobacco and cotton, and steel, too, have taken their places among our profitable products, but as to potatoes, onions, cabbage etc., there can be but little said in favor of an attempt to grow them on a large scale.



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